

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST



ANNUAL REPORT 2003





Chippewa National Forest

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FROM THE FOREST SUPERVISOR.....



NORMAN L. WAGONER
FOREST SUPERVISOR
CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

This was indeed a year of great challenge for the Chippewa National Forest. The Forest continued its proud heritage of quality public service and dedicated resource management while continuing progress on Forest Plan revision and transition with a new Forest Supervisor.

As we begin to face the many challenges ahead of us in 2004, we should take time to look back on our successes and be proud of what we have accomplished this year. We were able to meet our commitments this year through the extra effort of our dedicated workforce.

The Forest Plan revision process moved from the draft release through the draft comment period and into the comment analysis phase. We worked with competitive sourcing issues, addressed the Chief's four threats to public lands and supported an active fire season. We

also experienced another successful year through our volunteer programs and with our many partners.

We tried new approaches to improve efficiencies and help us meet commitments. With the passing of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, we acquired new tools in our resource management toolbox. We need to ensure that we use these new tools appropriately to validate the trust placed in us by the American public.

I am committed and looking forward to building a stronger relationship with our Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe neighbors based on expanded consultation efforts and honest and open communication.

As we look forward to 2004, we should continue to place an emphasis on credibility, integrity, accountability, professionalism and above all, safety. These are tall orders that I am committed to.

Celebrate with us our successes of 2003 and join us as we face the challenges 2004 has in store for us.

Norman L. Wagoner


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PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES

Seven Minnesota counties received a total \$3.6 million from the Forest Service in 2003. These payments, called the 25% fund, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Thye- Blatnik, are based on a formula of total Forest revenues, acres of National Forest and population within the counties. These funds have provided revenues to counties to compensate for the lost tax base of federal lands since 1922.

Congress passed the Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act in 2000, allowing counties a choice in receiving payments that were implemented in 2001. Itasca and Lake counties chose a stable payment until 2006. Cass and Beltrami counties (CNF) and Koochiching, St. Louis and Cook counties (SNF) decided to continue receiving 25% of Forest revenues. Thye-Blatnik payments tie with Wilderness Areas.



SUPERIOR	PILT	Thye-Blatnik (Wilderness)	25% fund	TOTAL
Koochiching:	\$5,444	NA	\$142.75	\$5,586.75
St. Louis:	\$709,126	\$9,999.99	\$316,950.37	\$1,036,076.36
Lake:	\$132,108	\$87,249.99	\$315,173.95	\$534,531.94
Cook:	\$116,258	\$4,249.99	\$232,861.88	\$353,369.87

CHIPPEWA	PILT	25% fund	TOTAL
Cass:	\$264,981	\$525,668.81	\$790,649.81
Itasca:	\$202,767	\$562,456.33	\$765,223.33
Beltrami:	\$57,781	\$82,300.85	\$140,081.85

2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TIMBER	CHIPPEWA	WILDLIFE/FISHERIES	CHIPPEWA
Harvested (Million Board Feet)	32,802	Terrestrial Habitat Restored (Acres)	786
Reforestation (Acres)	1,887	Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Habitat Enhanced (Acres)	253
Timber Stand Improvement (Acres)	2,474	Inland Streams Enhanced/Restored (Miles)	21
Fuelwood Permits	232	Inland Lakes Enhanced/Restored (Acres)	27
Christmas Tree Permits	293	Soil/Water Resource Improvement (Acres)	3
Bough Permits	66		
		LANDS	
		Right-of-Way Cases	2
		Special Use Permits	712
		Land Acquisition (Acres)	2
		Mineral Permits (Metric Tons)	33,291
		Total Acreage	666,523
		ENGINEERING	
		Road Construction (Miles)	0 miles
		Road Reconstruction (Miles)	9 miles
		Priority 1 Trails Maintained (Miles)	116 miles
		Boundary Management (Miles)	14 miles
HUMAN RESOURCES			
Senior Employment	58		
Volunteers	100		
Youth Conservation Corps	8		
Full Time Employees	150		
Campground Visitors	146,535		
Visitors at Centers/Offices	23,000		
Seasonal/Temp Employees	90		

COMMON PROBLEMS

Imagine this. You live on a beautiful island in northern Minnesota. Initially you have a handful of neighbors nearby who are respectful of your territory and fairly easy to get along with. Within a few years, however, the neighbors get rowdy, invite more and more of their relatives on the island, and even begin crowding up to your property line. They are loud, noisy, and frankly, they smell. Within five years, you go from having 73 neighbors to 1,144 loud, aggressive neighbors.

This is actually happening on Little Pelican Island on Leech Lake but not to the people who live within Forest boundaries. It's happening to the rare Common Terns. And the happy ending to this story is the result of one of many partnerships projects on the Forest.

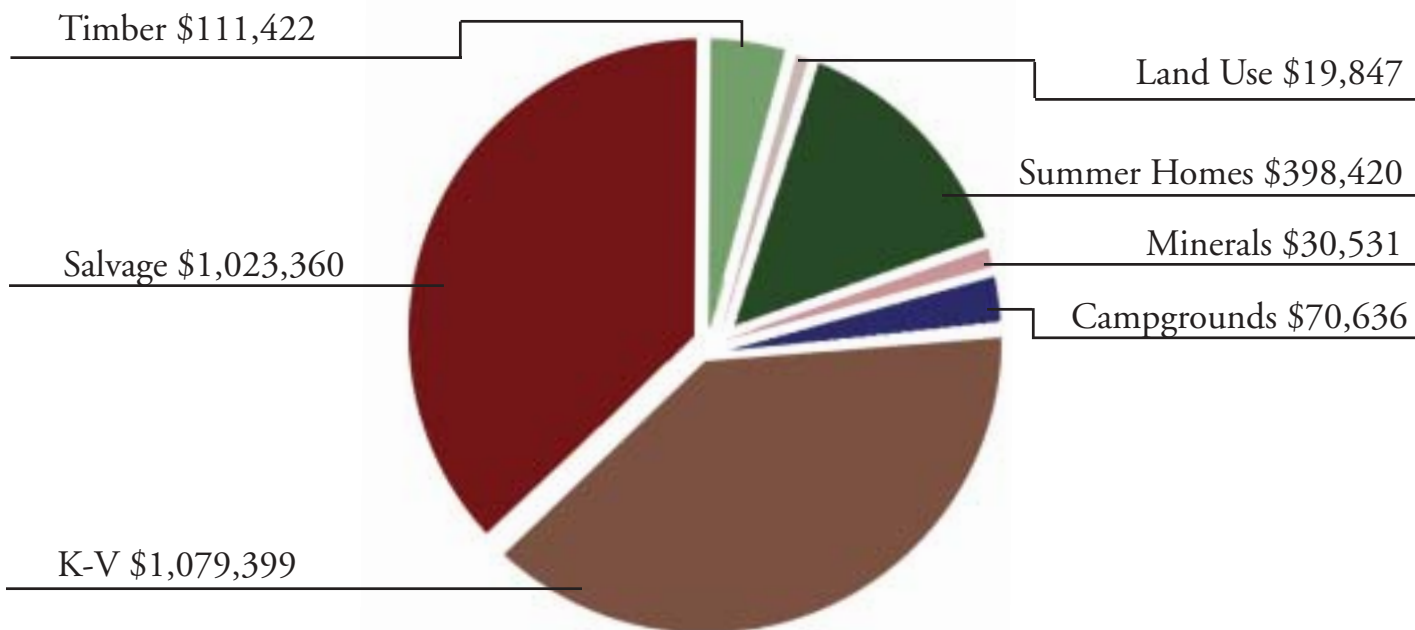
Our story begins in the 1990's. Groups of terns, gulls and cormorants were nesting on the larger Gull Island until high water eroded prime nesting areas. In 1993, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe developed a small tern nesting site on the north side of Little Pelican Island that was safe from flooding and competition from other species. This was all going well—the tern nesting success was higher than any other study site.

But in 1998, the other water birds moved on to Little Pelican. The cormorants were the last to arrive, but gradually began pushing the gulls out of their nests. The gulls, in turn, began moving toward the terns.



To save the tribally-owned tern nesting site, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe saw an opportunity to use Forest Service skills to assist in eliminating the cormorant nesting sites safely and effectively. This would hopefully lower the number of migrating cormorants to the site. In late September, the 20-person Leech Lake and Forest Service crew cut down all the remaining dead and dying trees on the island, piled the trees, brush and old nests and burned them. It was not a pleasant job for this group of firefighters (remember, cormorants and gulls are smelly neighbors) but in the end, the crew left smelling pretty good, knowing they have helped save precious habitat for an uncommon Common bird.

INCOME GENERATED





ZIGS RESEARCH EXPERIMENT

Spend time in the Avenue of Pines on the Chippewa National Forest, and you can learn about bald eagles, Civilian Conservation Corps, blueberry picking, and, of course, the spatial patterns on the landscape using silvicultural prescriptions such as shelterwood and large gap cutting patterns. Wait. What was the last one?

It's part of a large outdoor classroom experiment called the Cut Foot Sioux Experimental Forest. Research projects on the Chippewa National Forest are about innovative management practices and ideas. The 3100-acre Cut Foot Sioux Experimental Forest, managed by the USDA North Central Research Station, was planted in 1932. One of the long range projects has been the study of red pine regeneration. In 1950, a stand of 80-year old red pine was set aside to see if it

grew appreciably past the 80-year average age for timber harvest. Well-known Minnesota Foresters Zig Zasada, Bob Barse, and Glen Erickson all worked with the plot over the years. A walk through the Experimental Forest today shows the 130 year-old trees are still growing and responding to management techniques such as "thinning", a process of cutting down the smaller timber and brush to decrease competition for the older trees, allowing them to continue growth.

The red pine project on this little plot in the middle of our quiet scenic Forest offers larger answers. Perhaps the Research station goals say it best "Experimental forests are canvasses on which some of the most inventive minds in research have worked out their ideas. Replicated studies, maintained over decades, allowed us to first describe our region's resources and then to develop the stewardship principles we practice today."

A SAMPLE OF RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2003:

Long Term Soil Productivity Study: 10 years. This is an on-going nationwide study with North Central Research Station. Plots are in two sites — a pilot study at the Marcell Experimental Forest and a full study done on the Pike Bay Experimental Forest.

Species Diversity Study: On-going study with Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) Collecting information on the diversity and abundance of plant species at soil-treatment sites used in the Soil Productivity study (above).

Bird Monitoring: An 11 year study through NRRI. Conducting "point counts" to monitor breeding songbirds on the Chippewa, Superior and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests.

Large-Scale Pine Regeneration Study: In cooperation with North Central Research Station, this study looks at managing pine to develop multi-age, multi-storied stands.

Clean Water Partnership Project: Stream, lake water and sediment research on Jessie Lake. Using state-of-the-art diagnostic tools from U of Minnesota and NRRI. Partners include the County Soil & Water Department, Minnesota DNR, Jessie Lake Watershed Association, and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Earthworm and Goblin Fern Study: On-going study with NRRI near Ottertail Point. Combined with deer exclosure to collect data on the combined effect of deer browse and non-native worms. (Goblin Fern study by Gustavus Adolphus College.)

YCC CREW—“JUST DO IT”

What kid doesn't look forward to 8 weeks of summer? Hanging out with friends, going new places, being at the lake. Now, add those pastimes in with earning summer cash and you may have something! For almost 30 years, the Deer River Ranger District has kept the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program on the Chippewa National Forest alive with enthusiastic kids, innovative projects, strong education and work goals. In 2003, YCC leader Shawn Linder teamed up with a high-energy eight-person crew to really set the standard high for future field crews.

Dave Roerick, a forestry technician at Deer River District, was the Program leader and planned out projects and worked to keep the crew safe. He also made sure the YCC experience was educational. The crew took a number of field trip days, traveling to Itasca State Park, the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth, and the International Wolf Center in Ely. The students were able to work with natural resource professionals from the Forest and other agencies and get a wide view of natural resource management.



Looking back at the season, crew leader Shawn Linder said “My job was not only to provide instruction and guidance, but to develop a ‘get after it’ attitude and strong work ethic that is needed to succeed in this increasingly competitive world.” In the end, the YCC crew not only had a chance to earn, learn, and give back to the community, but they had a little fun doing it. Perhaps the new definition of a perfect summer!

2003 YCC PROJECTS

- Timber Stand Improvement projects: white pine blister rust prevention
 - Trail Maintenance: Brushed 15 miles of hiking and ski trails
- Wildlife Projects: Built and installed wood duck and bluebird houses
- Clean up of 6 dump sites (including household and white goods) Total of at least 70 bags of trash and 2500 lbs of scrap metal
 - Erosion control projects at campsites and boat landings
- Fence installation at Experimental Forest: deer and rabbit enclosure
 - Archaeological dig assistance at Sucker Lakes PIT project
- Trail work: Placed trail barriers to prevent illegal ATV use in specific areas
 - Clean-up at various Forest warehouses and wayside rests

LYNX LINKS

Years ago, cougar, lynx and bobcats roaming the northwoods seemed unbelievable. These wide ranging felines were assumed to inhabit only wilder places. Not so today. Forest ecologists and state wildlife officials now take each big cat report seriously, because along with the “cat tales”, there is usually physical proof....a track, a photo or an eyewitness with solid wildlife credentials.

Within the last three years, 218 lynx sightings were reported in Minnesota. Of those, 88 reports were verified, and 18 provided evidence of kittens. Minnesota’s National Forests have some of the highest numbers of verified sightings, with most reported on the Superior National Forest, where the boreal forest provides ideal habitat. The Chippewa National Forest had one verified report in the center of the Forest, with 11 additional sightings in surrounding Beltrami, Cass and Itasca counties.

How will the presence of lynx affect national forests and forest management? It’s a question being asked on the Chippewa and throughout the USDA Forest Service. The Forest Service signed a Lynx Conservation Agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2001 that would require lynx to be addressed in all national forest plans within lynx habitat.

Under the conservation agreement, the Forest Service will increase efforts already underway to identify and conserve known and potential habitat for the Canada lynx. The listing increases the responsibilities of the Forest Service to provide for lynx conservation in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Much of the habitat in the Great Lakes area is considered marginal and may not support prey densities sufficient to sustain lynx populations. An average annual snow depth of 18 inches, a baseline for lynx recovery areas, is not found on the Chippewa National Forest. It is also known that approximately every 10 years, hundreds of lynx come down from Canada into Minnesota when snowshoe hare populations are high.

As in the lynx’s real life history, mention of lynx in the 1986 Forest Plan is seldom seen. In the 2004 revised Forest Plan, lynx will not only be mentioned, they will be planned for and believed.



KNOW YOUR NATIONAL FOREST REGULATIONS!

Forest law enforcement officers work hard to cover the 666,523 acres of Chippewa National Forest land. Working cooperatively with State Conservation Officers, Leech Lake Tribal Officers and the County Sheriff's office, federal officers work with everything from natural resource violations, illegal drug operations, and visitor safety. Test your knowledge of National Forest System regulations.

True or False:

- 1) Portable hunting stands may remain in place through the hunting season, and do not have to be removed after each evening's hunt.
- 2) Commercial bear baiters on National forest Lands must apply for a permit.
- 3) ATV use on the Chippewa National Forest is unrestricted.
- 4) In 2003, Forest law enforcement officers found evidence of meth labs and meth lab dumping.
- 5) Timber theft refers to campers taking an oversupply of firewood from developed recreational areas.



Answers:

1) Only portable stands that do not damage trees and are removed at the end of the hunt are permitted. Officers discovered over 500 illegal permanent stands on the Forest and documented hundreds of violations for resource damage connected with permanent deer stands. Hunters do not need to remove their portable stands each night. They may set up their stand one week prior to the season start, and keep in place until one week after the hunting season. **True**

2) Any commercial operation on National Forest lands requires a permit, including bear baiting/guiding. Anyone working with a commercial operation on National Forest land needs to visit with the Lands Specialist. In 2003, 8 permits were issued for over 400 bear baiting stations. Over 300 incident reports, 15 violation notices and 8 warnings were written, including bear hunter resource violations and non-compliance with the bear guiding permit. **True**

3) Along with State-wide regulations regarding Recreational Motor Vehicle (RMV) use during the hunting season, Federal regulations are also enforced. On the Chippewa National Forest, RMV crosscountry travel off roads and trails is prohibited throughout the year. RMVs may operate on forest roads or trails unless posted closed, gated or bermed to restrict motorized use. In the winter, snowmobilers can travel over 600 miles of trail and unplowed roads on the Chippewa. **False**

4) Meth labs are increasing across the state, and the Chippewa National Forest is no exception. Forest Service officers work with the Paul Bunyan Drug Task Force and Arrowhead Drug Task Force to close down meth labs and marijuana gardens found on the Forest. Law enforcement strives to keep visitors safe by identifying these dangerous sites and ask the visitors report any unusual activity. **True**

5) Timber theft is more directly associated with land trespass. Increasing land sales around National Forest system lands are bringing timber trespass cases up as well. Almost 90% of timber trespass on the Chippewa National Forest comes from private landowners cutting across Forest boundaries. If you are a private landowner, make sure you know the boundaries of your property and public lands. Landowners who cut timber on national forest land are ticketed and charged at the fair market value for the trees cut. **False**

On a side note — campers are allowed to collect dead and down wood for campfires without a permit, though cut and dried firewood is available for purchase at the campground host site for \$5.00/bundle. Free-use permits are required for those wishing to collect firewood for personal home heating use. Up to 4 cords of dead and down wood (only) may be collected each year with this free permit.

Want to learn more? Contact the Forest Service Law Enforcement officer thru the Forest Supervisor's Office or check the USDA Forest Service web page. Information on Federal regulations may be found at **www.fs.fed.us/lei**, **Forest Rules**

HEROES FOR TODAY

Wildfires have been in the news for the past few years—especially in the western states—and it's no surprise to see Forest Service firefighters on the frontlines. In 2003, 63,629 wildfires burned through over 3,960,842 acres across the country. Over 20,000 firefighters fought the blazes at the peak of the season, including 78 firefighters from the Chippewa National Forest traveling to over 134 incidents. While the number of wildfires is staggering, the logistics that mobilize crews from northern Minnesota to large western fires and other emergencies could be even more daunting.

All this coordination and effort runs smoothly, though, thanks to the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS is a management tool consisting of procedures for organizing personnel, facilities, equipment and communication at the scene of any emergency at any scale. That's the important note. Chippewa crews are called on wildfires, but have responded to a long list of other National Emergencies over the years. ICS is the critical element in response time and efficiency for these crews. As you read the stories of three firefighters below, remember that ICS worked in training them, finding them, transporting them to an incident, getting them the safety gear they needed, and making sure their skills were utilized in the right place. Keep in mind, all 78 firefighters on the Chippewa National Forest have similar stories!

CHRIS KOTTKE

Engine Captain. Chris started out the season with a trip to the **Wayne National Forest** in **Ohio**. A severe ice storm had hit the area, and he worked as a sawyer, removing down trees and limbs. In the spring, Chris worked on the Deer River district with prescribed burns and 26 wildfires, working four as the Incident Commander. Since Chris is a firefighter, he is on the fire availability list from June 1st to the end of the western fire season. His first fire call of the year came on the 15th of July. He traveled to **New Mexico** on the **Gila National Forest** as a Crew Boss trainee. After a few days, his crew was transferred to the **Rocky**

Mountains in **Wyoming**. At the end of that detail, he was home for only two days before getting called out to the **Nez Perce National Forest** in Idaho on an Engine detail. Chris was home for 5 days with his family before being called out once more on a Helicopter crew to **Mount Rainier National Park**. There they would provide support for two small fires in the Park. He remained in **Washington** for 14 days and returned home. It was now September! The season ended for Chris with some fall prescribed burns at Tamarack Point on Winnie.



JOYCE RAIRDON

45 DAYS

Personnel Time and Equipment Recorder for Type 1 Incident Management Team. Joyce put her name on the availability list after the **Shuttle Disaster** and within 48 hours was called for a two-week detail in **Hemphill Texas**, working as a Time Recorder for search crews. Her name remained on the list, and her summer stayed busy. She was sent out for 11 days to **Tuscon, Arizona** on a fire and then to Livingston, Montana for 19 days on a wildfire on the **Gallatin National Forest**.



RAY BURPO

Supervisory Fire Engine Operator. In February, Ray was called out as an Assistant Crew Boss to work on the **Columbia Shuttle Recovery** effort. He worked with search crews for 14 days in **Corsicana, Texas**. He returned in March for the start of the Minnesota fire season. Over the spring fire season Ray worked as an Engine boss on numerous prescribed burns and 49 wildfires. In July, Ray was dispatched to **Colorado** as part of the first "All Chippewa Crew" in many years. The crew spent their first week on the Bolt fire and the remainder of the detail doing initial attack work on the Pagosa RD of the San Juan National Forest. (A crew with all Chippewa employees is rare. Normally, the forest's available personnel and skills are spread into numerous mixed agency crews.) Shortly after returning from Colorado Ray was again dispatched to **East Central Wyo-**

ming (Rawhide fire), then on to **Sheridan Wyoming** and the North Bighorn Complex for six days. As that fire was contained, the crew moved on to **Yellowstone National Park** on the East fire for the last seven days of the detail. Ray returned home for just two days before being called for the **Mudd Lake** fire on the **Superior National Forest**. He worked as Engine boss for three days, returned home and was called out as Crew Boss in **Northern California**. The crew worked on the **Shasta Trinity National Forest** (Thimble Berry) for four days and then moved over to the **Mendocino National Forest** (Grindstone Complex) for ten days. He returned back to Minnesota in September, where the autumn fire danger was rising. Ray and other Chippewa firefighters ended the season in October fighting the largest wildfire on the forest for the year. (Previous years, Ray has been called out thru the Incident Command System to assist on numerous other fires, floods, and with the 1999 Superior National Forest blowdown. There he spent 35 days cutting trees downed from the windstorm.)

Special Details with ICS over last five years: 9/11/01 New York City GIS Crew; Post 9/11/01 Glenn Canyon Dam Security, Law Enforcement; Oil Spill Grand Rapids; Shuttle Recovery; Ice Storm Damage Assistance

WOODTICK TRAILS AND WETLAND TALES

People don't automatically pair biologists with engineers or hydrologists with road building equipment, but on the Chippewa National Forest, it's a match made in.....the water. In 2003, Forest fisheries and hydrology staff teamed up with Forest engineers on at least 15 different hydrology-related projects, from shoreline stabilization to bridge and culvert replacements.

One of the larger projects involved the Woodtick Trail reroute near Walker. The "Trail" is actually a 15-mile long gravel road that parallels Highway 200 on the southern part of the Forest. Built along an 1890's railroad grade, the original entrance to the trail went through a wetland. In 2002, a decision was made to relocate the road entrance to an upland area 1000 feet north of the original entrance site. The new section consists of only 3500 feet of new road, but the benefits far outreach that. Relocating the road reduced long-term maintenance costs, improved safety for visitors and, upon completion of the second stage in 2004, will restore water flow within the wetlands near the old road bed.

Design of the new section incorporated traffic safety concerns, erosion control, top soiling requests and native seed planting upon completion, all items highlighted by biologists. Brenda Glenn, forest hydrologist, was thrilled with the result. "As soon as the new road section was completed, it looked as though it had been there for years. It fit the landscape. It was so well thought out for safety, for wetland protection and for travelers with the higher vistas." Engineers and biologists together agree that the Woodtick Trail project really reflects the goals of the 10% Fund, which allows 10% of the previous year's receipts to be spent on road improvements with a focus on wetland rehabilitation. The trail project will also contribute to wetland mitigation requirements for both the Migizi Bike Trail and Cass County Rd. 71. State law requires that for wetlands filled, other wetlands must be restored or created.

"This is the type of project where everything comes together—it's a win for all involved," said John Freetly, Forest engineer and designer of the new road section. The second phase of the project begins in 2004 with the pulling of the old road entrance and removal of fill from the wetland. Cass County will be leading that effort and will re-use the fill from the old Woodtick Trail on the County Road 50 project located just across the highway.

Other cooperative projects between Engineering and Biologists

- *Replaced 5 "bad" culverts and began work on NEPA documentation and stabilization design for replacement of several old wooden bridges*
- *Stabilized shoreline on the south end of Star Island*
- *Completed NEPA documentation & stabilization design for the Nushka overlook, Cass Lake*
- *Constructed stairs at Wanaki campground to reduce user developed erosion*
- *Completed beach stabilization work at Knutson Dam*
- *Restored stream channel & enhanced walleye spawning habitat at Jessie Lake*
- *Planted native vegetation along Riparian sites and conducted release work at previous year's sites.*



WORKING UNDERCOVER

They work under cover—tarp cover—and stand in dirt holes through the day. They lead investigations in the hot summer temps and in the cool far corner of the office, using buckets and trowels, measuring tools and tweezers, sharp pencils and forms. They are the 2003 Passport in Time volunteers and their work, though done quietly, will make a mark in history as surely as the pre-historic sites they study.

PIT volunteers expanded their use and knowledge of prehistoric sites and tried to answer questions about when, why and how people used this area and responded to changing environmental conditions. The Sucker Lake archaeological site contains evidence of occupations of the Mississippi Headwaters area dating from about 800-3000 years ago. People had developed the use of pottery, expanded the use of wild rice resources and began building burial mounds. Their population also increased significantly.

The Sucker Lake PIT session was divided into two separate projects. The first was the work done directly at the site, including trowel and shovel excavation, soil screening, sketch mapping, taking notes and photographs, and collecting samples. Participants in the second lab session identified, described and cataloged artifacts and samples from Sucker Lake, and past excavations. Volunteers excavated portions of the site to provide data that will also assist in evaluating National Register eligibility.

PIT program volunteers travel nationwide to work on projects from satellite mapping of old mining camps in Arizona to recovering prehistoric ceramic shards in Louisiana, from quilting in Illinois to looking for a sliver of chert in northern Minnesota soil. Here on the Chippewa, the Sucker Lake project marked the 12th PIT project since 1991, noting that the PIT program got its start in the 1980's on the Forest. In 2003, PIT volunteers donated 1,670 valuable "undercover" hours to the Forest!

If you are interested in volunteering for a project that hits your historic interests, contact the PIT Clearinghouse at 800-281-9176 or visit their website at www.passportintime.com



FROM PIT PROJECT TO NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Tucked away among the birches in the Chippewa National Forest is a precious relic of our Depression era past. Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps camp is one of the few remaining CCC camps in the country. Built in 1935 near Blackduck, thirteen of Rabideau's original twenty-five buildings remain. In 1976, Rabideau was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2000-2001, the Camp was the site of two Passport In Time rehabilitation projects.

In 2003 Rabideau CCC camp was nominated for designation as a National Historic Landmark, a nationally significant place illustrating important themes and events in American history. There is only one other such landmark in the Forest Service Eastern Region (Grey Towers, home of Gifford Pinchot). In 2004, a study of the Camp will be completed and presented to the National Park System Advisory Board. Once reviewed by the board, it is hoped Rabideau will be designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior. For more information on the National Historic Landmark Program, visit www.cr.nps.gov/nhl

MIGIZI PRIDE

Visitors enjoying the quiet beauty of the Migizi bike trail in autumn will most likely pause a moment as they peddle along to say a silent thank you to those who put together this trail.

What started as a passing idea for a trail system through the Chippewa National Forest is now an 18-mile looped trail that connects the Cass Lake area to state trails outside the Forest. Visitors and Forest staff celebrated the new connections on June 8 at a Trail Dedication ceremony. Over 100 people joined in the celebration held at Norway Beach Recreation Area, taking in the official ceremonies as well as the antics of the trail mascot, Migizi the Eagle, naturalist activities and a trail tour on bikes and rollerblades.

Those honored at the ceremony represented the wide range of partners who helped turn the idea into reality. Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Trails and Waterways, Cass County, Cass Lake Chamber of Commerce and the City of Cass Lake, the National Forest Foundation, and Enbridge Construction. Work on the Migizi trail began in 1995 with a 2.5 mile segment through the Norway Beach Recreation Area and was completed in October 2002, connecting the



loop to other paved bike trails. A future goal for the Migizi trail is to connect with the Great River Road system and expand the trail system into northeast Minnesota.

The goal today is to build on the fruits of that partnership. This beautiful trail can link with others for an endless ride. Riders can take in the red and yellow leaves mixed on the dark pavement . . . the last of the blackberries hanging from curved branches . . . the great breeze coming off the lake. Thanks Migizi crew!

MAPS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Wouldn't it be great if you could snap your fingers and get an accurate, personal map of any area of the national forest? Such a question started the innovative minds of Forest GIS staff working. The technology and data were there, but the instant delivery of a map had yet to appear. Now, with the click of a computer button, maps can be drawn that incorporate a wide variety of Forest inventory data. "C Mapper" allows employees to make and customize specific area maps (compartment maps) for their projects by merely starting up this computer program and typing in the district and compartment.

The GIS staff developed the program to be quick and user-friendly. It has put map making in the hands of all employees, and requires no specialized training. C Mapper is used to generate hundreds of maps for timber planning, sensitive species, heritage surveys and more, helping forest

management proceed with the most current information.

GIS is an important tool for natural resource management and is used in many Forest projects, allowing us to see the Forest from many different views. C Mapper puts this capability in the hands of the resource managers. The reality of C Mapper has also expanded into the public "Map Server" application. Faster than you can snap your fingers, MapServer was introduced to the public in the spring of 2003 at a Forest Plan Revision public meeting, and is now available on the Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa under Forest Plan Revision.

*"The most powerful factors in the world
are clear ideas in the minds of energetic men
of good will."* ~ J. Arthur Thomson

GOODS FROM THE WOODS

Ever wondered how to harvest hazel nuts? Thought about turning your talent for bending willow into a lucrative business but need to know how to start? Want to try a stack of blueberry pancakes covered in birch syrup? The 1st Annual Goods from the Woods Festival answered these questions and more for people from the communities in and around the Chippewa National Forest.

Organizers created the Good from the Woods Festival to promote the forest products industry, and encourage new businesses that utilize forest products. The value of the festival came in connecting resources to local and regional economies. If each of the 2000 participants sold just one wreath, one bottle of syrup or one basket, the result would be thousands of dollars into the local economy. And if each of those 2000 participants also practiced sustainable gathering of those natural resources, both the economic boost and resource supply continues.

Sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, Better Forest Magazine, the Northeast Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and the U of M Extension, the event brought in over 2000 participants and 40 workshop presenters. For the Chippewa National Forest, it was a chance to talk with people about gathering on the Forest. In 2003, the Forest issued 66 bough gathering permits for Christmas wreathes (each permit allows individuals to gather up to 2 tons).

Forest users collect cedar boughs, princess pine, and birchbark, tap birch and maple trees for syrup, and pull willow, dogwood and black ash for baskets. The Goods from the Woods event gave the Forest a chance to talk with folks about gathering techniques, permitting processes for commercial use and forest sustainability.

Presentations not only focused on the specific forest products, but also looked at woodland management for private landowners and cultural resources. Speaker John McDermott presented "Harvesting for Sustainability", a theme throughout the workshops. But it was the marketplace on Sunday that really showcased the purpose of the event. Willow furniture, hazel baskets, cedar strip canoes, hand drums, bird houses, wreathes. All handmade from Northern Minnesota's forests and all made with skill and pride.

The next Goods from the Woods event is scheduled for September 18-19, 2004. Hope to see you there!



For additional information, complete and return the information request form

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST
200 Ash Avenue NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
(218)335-8600

- ☐ NEPA Quarterly
- ☐ Forest Plan Revision
- ☐ Volunteer Program
- ☐ Resort Naturalist Program
- ☐ Welcome

- ☐ Camping
- ☐ Canoeing
- ☐ Eagle Viewing (CNF)
- ☐ Hiking
- ☐ ORV's

- ☐ Biking
- ☐ Forest Maps - 1/2"(\$4) or 3/8" scale (\$6 ea)
- ☐ Lake States Interpretive Catalog
- ☐ Wildflower/Weeds Brochure

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Chippewa National Forest

200 Ash Avenue NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
(218) 335-8600

TTY (218) 335-8632

www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa



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